IN THE MATTER OF:

Joseph G. DuMouchelle, and Melinda J. Adducci

Bankruptcy Case No. 19-54531 Honorable Phillip J. Shefferly Chapter 7

Debtors.

MOTION FOR ENTRY OF ORDER GRANTING AUTHORITY TO ISSUE SUBPOENAS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS AND THE EXAMINATION OF WITNESSES

NOW COMES Fred J. Dery, Chapter 7 Trustee (the "<u>Trustee</u>"), by and through his counsel Stevenson & Bullock, P.L.C., and files this Motion for Entry of Order Granting Authority to Issues Subpoenas for the Production of Documents and the Examination of Witnesses (the "<u>Motion</u>") and requests that this Court enter an order substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

Trustee, through his counsel, in support of his Motion, states:

JURISDICTION

- 1. This Court has jurisdiction over this motion pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157(a)-(b) and 1334(b). This is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b).
 - 2. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1408 and 1409.
- 3. Trustee brings this Motion pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§ 105, E.D. Mich. LBR 9014-1, and Rule 1019(6) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure.

FACTS & PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

- 4. On October 11, 2019 (the "<u>Petition Date</u>"), the debtors, Joseph G. DuMouchelle, and Melinda J. Adducci (collectively, the "<u>Debtors</u>"), filed a voluntary petition for relief under Chapter 11 of Title 11, United States Code (the "<u>Bankruptcy Code</u>").
- 5. On December 4, 2019, the bankruptcy case was converted to one under Chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code pursuant to the *Order Converting Case to Chapter* 7 (the "Conversion Order") [Docket No. 57].
- 6. The Trustee is the duly qualified and permanent trustee in this Chapter 7 case and over the bankruptcy estate (the "Estate" or "Bankruptcy Estate").

RELIEF REQUESTED

7. By this Motion, the Trustee seeks an order, substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit 1, authorizing the Trustee to seek documents and oral examinations pursuant to Rule 2004 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure without further order of this Court. This Motion is appropriate and reasonable to assist the Trustee in his investigation into the Debtors' assets, liabilities, and financial affairs.

LEGAL AUTHORITY

- 8. Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §105, the Court has broad power to, "issue any order, process, or judgment that is necessary or appropriate to carry out the provisions of this title."
- 9. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 2004, the Court may order the examination of any entity or person on motion filed by any party in interest. The examination may relate to the acts, conduct, or property, or to the liabilities and financial condition of the Debtor, or to any matter which may affect the administration of the Estate. Furthermore, pursuant to Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 2004, the attendance of a person or entity for examination and for the production of documents may be compelled as provided in Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 9016.
- 10. Courts recognize that the scope of a Rule 2004 examination is broad. Indeed, some courts have compared it to a "fishing expedition." *In re Hammond*, 140 B.R. 197, 201 (Bankr. S.D. Ohio 1992); *In re Russell*, 392 B.R. 315, 359 (Bankr. E.D. Tenn. 2008) ("A Rule 2004 examination is a legally authorized fishing expedition. It is not a deposition subject to all the procedural rules governing discovery in a contested matter or adversary proceeding."). "Although the primary purpose of a Rule 2004 examination is to permit a party in interest to quickly ascertain the extent and location of the estate's assets, such examination is

not limited to the debtor or his agents, but may properly extend to creditors and third parties who have had dealings with the debtor." *In re Fearn*, 96 B.R. 135, 138 (Bankr. S.D. Ohio 1989).

- Good cause exists to issue Bankruptcy Rule 2004 examinations and 11. enter the relief requested in this Motion. Although the Trustee hopes and intends to conduct his investigation largely through the voluntary cooperation of witnesses and entities, the Trustee anticipates that absent the ability to issue subpoenas, filing a separate motion for each Bankruptcy Rule 2004 examination would rapidly Specifically, (i) the large number of potential financial become burdensome. institutions, corporate interests, and parties in interest either held by the Debtors or with whom the Debtors engaged with their financial affairs, suggests that a large number of Bankruptcy Rule 2004 examinations may be necessary; (ii) any delay in seeking such examinations could lead to dissipation of recoverable assets, evidence, or information; and (iii) the filing of numerous Bankruptcy Rule 2004 motions with the Court would unnecessarily burden the Court and Trustee and would generate additional administrative costs to the Estate.
- 12. The requested subpoena powers are critical to the Trustee's ability to fulfill his fiduciary duties under the Bankruptcy Code and are in the best interest of the Debtors' creditors and the efficient liquidation and administration of the Bankruptcy Estate.

Bankruptcy Rule 2004 Subpoena Procedures

- 13. The Trustee seeks entry of an order streamlining the Bankruptcy Rule 2004 discovery process by implementing the following procedures:
 - a. The Trustee will be authorized to issue and serve subpoenas (individually, a "Rule 2004 Subpoena") for examination and the production of documents pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2004 without further order of the Court;
 - b. The Trustee shall serve each Rule 2004 Subpoena and a copy of the order entered pursuant to this Motion on the target of the Rule 2004 Subpoena;
 - c. The Trustee shall file with the Court a certificate of service for each Rule 2004 Subpoena served;
 - d. Targets of a Rule 2004 Subpoena and any party in interest will have 14 days after any Rule 2004 Subpoena is served to object to and/or seek to quash such Rule 2004 Subpoena;
 - e. Targets of a Rule 2004 Subpoena will be directed to produce, on a rolling basis, all responsive documents within 14 days of the service of the subpoena (unless otherwise agreed by the Trustee), subject to any documents withheld under a claim of privilege;
 - f. If a witness withholds any documents based upon a claim of privilege, the witness will be obligated to provide counsel for the Trustee a privilege log containing the information required under Fed. R. Bankr. P. 7026(b)(5) within 14 days of the service of a Rule 2004 Subpoena upon that witness (unless otherwise agreed by the Trustee); and
 - g. Persons on whom a Rule 2004 Subpoena is served are directed to submit to oral examination upon reasonable notice and, absent other agreement with the Trustee, in no event more than 21 days from the service of a subpoena calling for such testimony.

- 14. This process has been approved by courts in this district and courts in other districts to streamline the trustee's investigation of third parties that may have an effect on the administration of a debtor's estates. See *In re Richard Martin Lewiston*, Case No. 12-58599-pjs [Docket No. 141]; *In re MuniVest Services, LLC*, et al, Case No. 10- 71403-pjs [Docket No. 29]; *In re Kevin G. Carney*, Case No. 09-18053 [Docket No. 65] (Bankr. N.D. Illinois, March 2, 2010); and *Securities Investor Protection Corporation v. Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC*, Adversary Proceeding No. 08-01789-BRL [Docket No. 31] (Bankr. S.D.N.Y., January 12, 2009).
- 15. The proposed process will enable the Trustee to engage in the necessary discovery immediately and move quickly as his investigation unfolds. Thus, the requested relief would minimize costs to the Estate, allow the Trustee to conduct an efficient investigation, and potentially minimize any dissipation of assets. Nothing in the Motion or the proposed order granting the Motion limits the rights of any witness or other party under applicable law to object to or oppose any Rule 2004 Subpoena the Trustee may serve upon such witness.

CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, Trustee requests that this Honorable Court enter the proposed Order attached hereto as Exhibit 1 and grant such other and further relief as this Honorable Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted, STEVENSON & BULLOCK, P.L.C.

By: /s/ Elliot G. Crowder Elliot G. Crowder (P76137) Counsel for Trustee 26100 American Drive, Ste. 500 Southfield, MI 48034 Phone: (248) 354-7906

Facsimile: (248) 354-7907

Email: ecrowder@sbplclaw.com

Dated: February 13, 2020

IN THE MATTER OF:

Joseph G. DuMouchelle, and Melinda J. Adducci

Bankruptcy Case No. 19-54531 Honorable Phillip J. Shefferly Chapter 7

Debtors.

ORDER GRANTING AUTHORITY TO ISSUE SUBPOENAS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS AND THE EXAMINATION OF <u>WITNESSES</u>

THIS MATTER having come before the Court upon the Chapter 7 Trustee's Motion for Entry of Order Granting Authority to Issues Subpoenas for the Production of Documents and the Examination of Witnesses (the "Motion")¹; no timely objections having been filed and properly served, or if timely filed and properly served, having been overruled; notice of the Motion having been sufficient and appropriate; and the Court being otherwise fully advised in the premises;

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

- 1. The Motion is granted.
- 2. The Trustee is authorized to issue and serve Rule 2004 Subpoenas for examinations pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2004 without further order of the Court.

Capitalized terms as used herein shall have the same meanings as prescribed to them in the Motion, unless otherwise provided herein.

- 3. The Trustee shall serve each Rule 2004 Subpoena and copy of this Order on the target of the Rule 2004 Subpoena.
- 4. The Trustee shall file with the Court a certificate of service for each Rule 2004 Subpoena he serves.
- 5. Recipients of a Rule 2004 Subpoena and any party in interest will have 14 days after any Rule 2004 Subpoena is served to object to and/or seek to quash such Rule 2004 Subpoena.
- 6. The Trustee shall include on the face of any Rule 2004 Subpoena that he issues the following language in bold, underlined font: Recipients of a Rule 2004 Subpoena and any party in interest shall have 14 days after the date of service to object to and/or seek to quash such Rule 2004 Subpoena.
- 7. Recipients of a Rule 2004 Subpoena are directed to produce, on a rolling basis, all responsive documents within 14 days of the service of the subpoena (unless otherwise agreed by the Trustee), subject to any documents withheld under a claim of privilege.
- 8. If a witness withholds any documents based upon a claim of privilege, the witness is obligated to provide counsel for the Trustee a privilege log containing the information required under Fed. R. Bankr. P. 7026(b)(5) within 14 days of the service of a Rule 2004 Subpoena upon that witness (unless otherwise agreed by the Trustee).

- 9. Recipients of a Rule 2004 Subpoena are directed to submit to oral examination upon reasonable notice and, absent other agreement with the Trustee, in no event more than 21 days from the service of a deposition subpoena upon the recipient of said subpoena.
- 10. This Court retains jurisdiction with respect to all matters relating to the interpretation or implementation of this Order.

IN THE MATTER OF:

Joseph G. DuMouchelle, and Melinda J. Adducci

Bankruptcy Case No. 19-54531 Honorable Phillip J. Shefferly Chapter 7

Debtors.

NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO OBJECT TO MOTION FOR ENTRY OF ORDER GRANTING AUTHORITY TO ISSUES SUBPOENAS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS AND THE EXAMINATION OF <u>WITNESSES</u>

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Trustee, Fred J. Dery, by and through his counsel, Stevenson & Bullock, P.L.C., has filed a Motion for Entry of Order Granting Authority to Issues Subpoenas for the Production of Documents and the Examination of Witnesses (the "Motion").

Your rights may be affected. You may wish to review the Motion and discuss it with your attorney, if you have one in this bankruptcy case. If you do not have an attorney, you may wish to consult one.

If you wish to object to the Court granting the relief sought in the Motion, or if you want the Court to otherwise consider your views on the Motion, within fourteen (14) days of service of the Motion, or such shorter time as the Court may hereafter order, you or your attorney must:

1. File with the Court a written response or an answer², explaining your position at:

United States Bankruptcy Court 211 West Fort Street Detroit, Michigan 48226

If you mail your response to the Court for filing, you must mail it early enough so the Court will receive it on or before the date stated above.

² Response or answer must comply with FED.R.CIV.P. 8(b), (c), and (e).

You must also mail a copy to:

Stevenson & Bullock, P.L.C. Attn.: Elliot G. Crowder 26100 American Drive, Suite 500 Southfield, Michigan 48034

-and-

Office of the United States Trustee 211 West Fort Street, Suite 700 Detroit, Michigan 48226

If a response or answer is timely filed and served, the clerk may schedule a hearing on the Motion and you will be served with a notice of the date, time, and location of the hearing.

If you or your attorney do not take these steps, the Court may decide that you do not oppose the relief sought in the Motion and may enter an Order granting the relief sought therein.

Respectfully submitted, STEVENSON & BULLOCK, P.L.C.

By: /s/ Elliot G. Crowder
Elliot G. Crowder (P76137)
Counsel for Trustee
26100 American Drive, Suite 500
Southfield, MI 48034
Phone: (248) 354-7906

Facsimile: (248) 354-7907

Email: ecrowder@sbplclaw.com

Dated: February 13, 2020

IN THE MATTER OF:

Joseph G. DuMouchelle, and Melinda J. Adducci

Bankruptcy Case No. 19-54531 Honorable Phillip J. Shefferly Chapter 7

Debtors.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Elliot Crowder certifies that certifies that on February 13, 2020 a copy of the Motion for Entry of Order Granting Authority to Issues Subpoenas for the Production of Documents and the Examination of Witnesses, proposed Order, Notice, and Certificate of Service was served upon the following parties via the Court's CM/ECF (PACER) system, and/or by United States Postal Service First Class Mail:

Office of the United States Trustee	Joseph G. DuMouchelle
	Melinda J. Adducci
	1221 Bowers, #2595
	Birmingham, MI 48012
Fred Dery	Robert N. Bassel
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dcloven@fredjdery.com	ecfbassel@gmail.com
fjd@trustesolutions.net	
Leslie K. Berg (UST)	Howard M. Borin
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Glenn S. Walter	Daniel J. Weiner
gwalter@honigman.com	dweiner@schaferandweiner.com
Jay L. Welford	All other ECF participants
jwelford@jaffelaw.com	

Elliot Crowder further certifies that on February 13, 2020 a copy of the **Notice** was served by depositing same in a United States Postal Box located in Southfield, Michigan, with postage fully prepaid thereon on all parties appearing on Debtors' matrix obtained from the Court's CM/ECF website on February 13, 2020 and attached hereto.

Respectfully submitted, STEVENSON & BULLOCK, P.L.C.

By: /s/ Elliot G. Crowder
Elliot G. Crowder (P76137)
Counsel for Trustee
26100 American Drive, Suite 500
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Email: ecrowder@sbplclaw.com

Dated: February 13, 2020

Label Matrix for local noticing 0645-2 Case 19-54531-pjs Eastern District of Michigan Detroit Thu Feb 13 15:01:01 EST 2020

A-RON Resources LLC c/o Glenn S. Walter/Honigman LLP

660 Woodward Ave., Ste. 2290 Detroit, MI 48226-3506

Ally Bank P.O. Box 130424 Saint Paul, MN 55113-0004

American Express National Bank c/o Becket and Lee LLP PO Box 3001 Malvern PA 19355-0701

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Melinda J. Adducci 1221 Bowers #2595 Birmingham, MI 48012-7102

American Express Customer Care / Bankruptcy P.O. Box 297812 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33329-7812

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Chase P. O. Box 15298 Wilmington, DE 19850-5298

Credibly 25200 Telegraph Rd STE 350 Southfield, MI 48033-7416

Department Stores National Bank (Macy's Bankruptcy Processing P.O. Box 8053 Mason, OH 45040-8053

Discover Bank Discover Products Inc Po Box 3025 New Albany OH 43054-3025

East Continental Gems c/o Cindy Elizabeth Molloy, Esq. 551 Fifth Avenue, 31st Floor New York, NY 10176-0001

Earle I. Erman Maddin, Hauser, Roth & Heller, P.C. 28400 Northwestern Highway Second Floor

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First National Bank & Trust 22 4th Street E. Williston, ND 58801-5332

Jerome D. Frank 30833 Northwestern Hwy Ste. 205 Farmington Hills, MI 48334-2582 Matthew W. Frank 30833 Northwestern Hwy. Suite 205 Farmington Hills, MI 48334-2582

Goldstein, Bershad & Fried, P.C. 4000 Town Center Suite 1200 Southfield, MI 48075-1413

Marty Harrity Frank & Frank, PLLC 30833 Northwestern Hwy. Suite 205 Farmington Hills, MI 48334-2582

JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. s/b/m/t Chase Bank USA, N.A. c/o Robertson, Anschutz & Schneid, P.L. 6409 Congress Avenue, Suite 100 Boca Raton, FL 33487-2853

Jeffrey A. Mitchell, Esq. 5 Penn Plaza, 24th Floor New York, NY 10001-1810

Jonathan Birnbach & J.B. International 576 Fifth Avenue New York, NY 10036-4807

Joseph Gaylord Thomas, DeGrood & Witenoff, P.C. 26211 Central Park Blvd., Suite 110 Southfield, MI 48076-4154

Shanna Marie Kaminski 160 W. Fort St. 5th Floor Detroit, MI 48226-3700 Kevin G. Thomas Thomas, DeGrood & Witenoff, P.C. 26211 Central Park Blvd., Suite 110 Southfield, MI 48076-4154

Lee County Tax Collector C/o Legal Department PO Box 850 Fort Myers FL 33902-0850

Morris B. Lefkowitz 29777 Telegraph Road Suite 2440 Southfield, MI 48034-7667 Bryan D. Marcus 29488 Woodward Ave. Suite 451 Royal Oak, MI 48073-0903 Nanette Poole 458 Bournemouth Circle Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236-2816

Oakland County Circuit Court 1200 N. Telegraph Road Pontiac, MI 48341-0404

Office of the United States Trustee Ohio/Michigan Regional Office 211 West Fort Street Suite 700 Detroit, Michigan 48226-3263 Attn: Quarterly Fee Coordinator

PRA Receivables Management, LLC PO Box 41021 Norfolk, VA 23541-1021

Precious Stones Company c/o Honigman LLP 2290 First National Bldg. 660 Woodward Ave. Detroit, MI 48226-3516

Jay Richter John R. Wood Properties 1019 Periwinkle Way Sanibel, FL 33957-6914

Karen L. Rowse-Oberle 24525 Harper Ave. Suite Two St. Clair Shores, MI 48080-1286

Deborah S. Rubin 27777 Franklin Road Suite 2500 Southfield, MI 48034-8214

Tami R. Salzbrenner 30833 Northwestern Hwy. Suite 205 Farmington Hills, MI 48334-2582 Sanibel Captiva Community Bank 7500 College Parkway Fort Myers, FL 33907-5500

Aaron J Scheinfield Goldstein, Bershad & Fried, P.C. 4000 Town Center Suite 1200 Southfield, MI 48075-1413

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Craig S. Schoenherr Sr. 12900 Hall Road Suite 350 Sterling Heights, MI 48313-1174

Mark H. Shapiro 25925 Telegraph Rd. Suite 203 Southfield, MI 48033-2527

Simply Self Storage 20355 E 9 Mile Rd Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080-1757

Synchrony Bank (Lowe's) Bankruptcy Department P.O. Box 965060 Orlando, FL 32896-5060

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Teodor Gelov c/o Jaffe Raitt Heuer & Weiss PC Jay Welford, Esq. 27777 Franklin Rd Ste 2500 Southfield, MI 48034-8222 Thomas T. Ritter c/o Bryan D. Marcus, Esq. 29488 Woodward Ave., Suite 451 Royal Oak, MI 48073-0903 (p)US BANK PO BOX 5229 CINCINNATI OH 45201-5229

Verizon
by American InfoSource as agent
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Glenn S. Walter 660 Woodward Avenue 2290 First National Building Detroit, MI 48226-3506 Daniel J. Weiner 40950 Woodward Ave. Suite 100 Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304-5124

Jay L. Welford 27777 Franklin Rd. Suite 2500 Southfield, MI 48034-8214 William Noble Rare Jewels, LP 100 Highland Park Village Dallas, TX 75205-2784

The preferred mailing address (p) above has been substituted for the following entity/entities as so specified by said entity/entities in a Notice of Address filed pursuant to 11 U.S.C. 342(f) and Fed.R.Bank.P. 2002 (g) (4).

US Bank P.O. Box 5229 Cincinnati, OH 45201-5229

The following recipients may be/have been bypassed for notice due to an undeliverable (u) or duplicate (d) address.

(u) Joy Augustine

(u) Jonathan Birnbach

(u) Charles D. Bullock

(u) Finemark National Bank & Trust

(u) Teodor Gelov

(u) J.B. International

(u) John Ragard

(u) Marty Harvity

(u) Aaron Mendelsohn

(du) John Ragard

(u) Thomas Ritter

(u) Sanibel Captiva Community Bank

(u) Santander Consumer USA, Inc.

(u) Mark Shapiro

(u) Thomas Ritter
c/o Attorneys - Bryan Marcus P47125

(u) Andrew R. Vara

End of Label Matrix
Mailable recipients 67
Bypassed recipients 16
Total 83